

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1. – 13. (Cancelled).

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) A vehicle seat comprising:

a back rest;

head restraint having a head cushion; and

a heating device for heating the neck and head region of a seat occupant with hot air; wherein,

the heating device has an air-guiding duct which is arranged in the head cushion and has a hot air outlet opening;

the hot air outlet opening is arranged on a downward side of the head cushion; and

an intermediate space between the downward side of the head cushion and an upper side of the back rest is shielded to the rear by means of a covering, wherein the covering is an extension of the rear side of the head restraint.

Claim 15. (Original) The vehicle seat as claimed in Claim 14, wherein the covering has a rear wall extending on a rear side of head restraint and back rest, which rear side faces away from the seat occupant, and has side walls which are fitted laterally on the head cushion and extend as far as the upper side of the back rest.

Claim 16. (Original) The vehicle seat as claimed in Claim 14, wherein:

the head restraint is height adjustable; and
the covering is an elastic curtain.

Claim 17. (Withdrawn) The vehicle seat as claimed in Claim 14, wherein the covering is an apron which is clamped on a rear side of the back rest via elastic straps.

Claim 18. (Withdrawn) The vehicle seat as claimed in Claim 14, wherein the covering is a plate.

Claim 19. (Withdrawn) The vehicle seat as claimed in Claim 14, wherein the covering is formed by a raised end portion of the back rest.

Claim 20. (Withdrawn) The vehicle seat as claimed in Claim 18,

wherein:

the head restraint is height adjustable;

the back rest end portion has a substantially lower thickness in a longitudinal direction of the seat than the back rest; and

at every height setting of the head restraint, the head cushion overlaps the back rest end portion from above, on its front side facing the seat occupant.

Claim 21. (Withdrawn) The vehicle seat as claimed in Claim 14,

wherein:

an air-guiding element is arranged in said intermediate space; and

the air guiding element is configured such that hot air flowing out of the hot air outlet opening is deflected toward a neck and head region of the seat occupant.

Claim 22. (Withdrawn) The vehicle seat as claimed in Claim 21,

wherein the air-guiding element is fastened on the upper side of the back rest.

Claim 23. (Withdrawn) The vehicle seat as claimed in Claim 21,

wherein the air-guiding element extends through the hot air outlet opening into the air-guiding duct.

**Claim 24. (Original) The vehicle seat as claimed in Claim 14,
wherein:**

the air-guiding duct formed in the head cushion has an air inlet opening which is arranged on the rear side of the head cushion, facing away from the seat occupant, and is covered by a grill; and
the heating device is integrated in the air-guiding duct.

**Claim 25. (Original) The vehicle seat as claimed in claim 24, wherein
the heating device has an electric heating element arranged in the air-guiding
duct.**

**Claim 26. (Original) The vehicle seat as claimed in Claim 25, wherein
the heating device has an axial fan which is arranged in the air-guiding duct,
and is positioned at a point which is one of upstream and downstream of the
electric heating element.**